

HOUSE BILL NO. 481

INTRODUCED BY LINDEEN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MAIN STREET PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO BE DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION; APPROPRIATING \$250,000 FOR THE BIENNIUM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM AND FOR AWARDED GRANTS TO QUALIFYING ENTITIES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Main street program -- establishment -- purpose -- rulemaking. (1)

There is a main street program in the department of commerce developed in conjunction with the main street program of the national trust for historic preservation.

(2) The purpose of the program is to:

(a) assist communities in restoring and retaining the historic character of their downtown areas and historic commercial districts;

(b) stimulate business investment, assist in retaining existing small businesses, and promote new businesses in those areas;

(c) strengthen the local tax base;

(d) create employment opportunities in community downtown areas and historic districts; and

(e) generally enhance the economic viability of downtown areas and historic districts.

(3) (a) The department of commerce ~~shall~~ MAY adopt rules governing the operation of the main street program.

(b) In developing the rules, the department shall consult with the national trust for historic preservation, provided for in 16 U.S.C. 468, to ensure that Montana's main street program is consistent with the main street program operated by the national trust for historic preservation.

~~**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Appropriation. (1) There is appropriated to the department of commerce \$250,000 for the biennium from the general fund for the main street program.**~~

~~———— (2) The department of commerce shall use the funds to administer the program and to provide grants of not more than \$10,000 each to qualifying entities to develop local main street programs as provided in [section 4] and in the rules adopted pursuant to [section 1].~~

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 1, part 1, and the provisions of Title 90, chapter 1, part 1, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2005.

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